

## **Effect of Spotted Knapweed on the Germination and Survival of Pitcher's Thistle, *Cirsium pitcheri***

### **Objectives:**

To assess Pitcher's thistle interactions in a way that will provide further information on the conditions determining successful recruitment of Pitcher's thistle within its protected habitat. Specifically, the aim of the study is to evaluate experimentally the role of spotted knapweed, an invasive alien plant species in the dunes, on the germination and survival of Pitcher's thistle.

### **Findings and Status:**

The main activity on this project this year has been the review and initial analysis of the data collected to date. The initial data analyses suggest that spotted knapweed can and will reduce the successful germination and early survival of Pitcher's thistle under some conditions. Further study is required to understand this result.